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Nikolaos Gonis

VICTOR, BISHOP, AND HIS EVASIVE SEE

A bishop called Victor, acting through his notary, is one of the parties to this transaction, recorded in a document described as ἐγγραφὸς ἀκαθάρτιος, of which only the upper right part survives; the other party is a plurality of persons. The reference to the bishop’s seat is lost, but we are not without clues. His notary, Ioannes son of Akindynos, is known from P. Grenf. i 89 (9 July 525) and 90 (30 Sept. 525), in which Ioannes’ origo is said to be (ὁ) Ἀπολλωναπολίτων, sometime taken to be Apollinopolis Magna (Edfu), but surely to be identified with Apollinopolis Heptacomia or Minor (Kom Isfaht). It is thus conceivable that Victor was a bishop of Apollinopolis Minor, though the neighbouring

1 The papyrus seems to confirm the datings for these texts, both loans made to a soldier, suggested by A. Papathomas, P. Heid. vii 401.16-17 n., on the basis of the reference to the 12% rate of interest. (N. Krütt, BL x, p. 87, expressed reservations over this argument; I discuss the issue in ZPE 144 (2003), pp. 187-188).


Antaepolis may also be considered. It is possible that this Victor is the bishop attested in P. Alex. 32, a document of questionable provenance and date; see below 3 n.

The back is blank so far as it is preserved.

Text

(EES) P. Misc.inv. I 82a 13.5 x 10 cm 1 May – 31 December 528

[† ὑπατείας τοῦ διεσπότου ἡμῶν Φλ(αυγίου) Ἰους] ἐνιαυτοῦ τοῦ
ἀλωνίου Αἰγοῦστος Αὐτοκράτορος

[ month, day ] ζ//
[ τῷ 30 ] τῷ πατρὶ αἵβα Βίκτωρ ἐπικόσφρος

[ τῇ 13–15 ] διὰ οὖν τοῦ θαυμα|ξωτάτου Ἰωάννου Ἀκινδύνου νοταρ(ίου)
[ παρὰ Αὐρηλίων ] c. 20 – ἀτος Βηθιού καὶ Παμη ῶ Πεκυσίου
[ ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως χ(αίρειν). ὁμολογοῦμεν διὰ τ[αύτης] ἡμῶν
τῆς ἑγγράφου

Translation

In the consulship of our master Flavius Iustinianus, the eternal Augustus (and) Imperator, (month, day) indiction 7. To (our) ... father abba Victor, bishop of ..., through you, the most admirable Ioannes son of Akindynos, notary, from Aurelii ... – as son of Besios and Paamios son of Pekylos, from the same city, greetings. We acknowledge through this written security of ours ...

4 The papyrus belongs to the collection from which the miscellany published in P. Herm. also came. For the origins of this collection, see BASP 45 (2008), pp. 70–72.
Commentary

1–2. The indiction figure (7), if correctly read (but ζ is more promising than ξ; the only other alternative), indicates that the reference is to Justinian’s second consulship, held in 528, the year immediately after his accession to the throne. Its earliest record in the papyri dates from 2 September 528 (P. Cair. Masp. i 67091), while on 10 May 528 one still finds the postconsulate of the previous year (P. Bingen 131); see further CSBE 205. In the Thebaid, this indiction 7 started on 1 May 528. The date of the papyrus is not likely to be later than 31 December
528, since there does not seem to be enough space for a postconsular formula in the broken part of line 1: we would have to reckon with an even larger lacuna in line 3, which is already hard to fill; and in 4 we would need to restore the name of a city that is longer than those available (see the note below). Considerations of space also make it unlikely that one should restore a regnal formula of Justinian, which would bring the date of the text to 558. There is no room for a regnal clause (βασιλεύων τοις θεωτάτοις καὶ εἰκοσιτάτοις ἡμῶν δικτύστοις κτλ.), and there is no reference to the postconsulate of Fl. Basilius, which follows after all regnal clauses of Justinian.

3. I do not see how to restore the line convincingly. τῷ θεοφιλετάτῳ καὶ οἰκωντάτῳ (or ἀγαθῷ τῷ) would be too short for the space. (It is improbable that the line began with a reference to the place where the contract was made, since this would have been written in l. 2.) Perhaps more than two epithets were used for the bishop. On the epithets of bishops, see D. Feissel, ‘L’évêque, titres et fonctions d’après les inscriptions grecques jusqu’au vii e siècle’, in Actes xi e Congr. Arch. Chrét. (1989), pp. 801–828. Bίκτωρι ἐπισκόπω. A bishop named Victor occurs in P. Alex. 32, taken to come from Hermopolis and to date from 448/463 (BL V, p. 3). Both the provenance and date of the papyrus create difficulties, so that a separate discussion seems in order. I reproduce the text first, into which I have incorporated suggestions recorded in BL V, p. 4, VIII, p. 1, X, p. 3, and one new: in ll. 9–10, I read πάτις | [μ]ίξαρτίω (l. -ία) in place of πάτιςΙξαρτίομ. (I am grateful to Jean-Luc Fournet for supplying a scan.)

[tη άγια], ..., καὶ θεολ[ική έκ]κλη[ηςία] τῆς
[..... πο]λεῖ[των θεο]ς[εκτάτου καὶ]
[οἰκωντάτου] πα[πάς Βίκτορος ἐπισκόπων (παρὰ) Αὐρίχιλίου] Ψαίων
4 ἐκ πατρὸς Διον, καθαρουργ(ο)ῦ τὸ ἐπιτήδειμα, ἀπὸ τῆς
ἀειθὸς πάλαις χαλαρεῖν, μερίθωμαι παρὰ τῆς ὅμως θεοσεβείας
πρὸς ὅν τῶν (ν [β]οιλιθεῖν χρήσαι, λογιζόμενον ἀπὸ τῆς ἐκμέταλλος
καὶ προγεγραμμένης ἡμέρας, ἢ τε εἶν Μεχείρ οὐδοῦ.
8 τῆς παροικίς πρώτης [π] θεοσεβείας, τὸ ὑπάρχον τῇ ἀγίᾳ ἔκκλησιᾷ
καθαρουργ[ιῶν] ἐν μνήμοις δυσκ ζητωμένοι πάτις [γ]
[μένοι] [μένοι] [μένοι] [μένοι]

The text contains no regnal or consular date clause, but dates from ‘the eighth of Mecheir of the present first indiction’. Ed. pr. assigned the text to
447/462, on which R. Rémondon, *CdÉ* 40 (1962), pp. 171–172, observed: ‘Les éditeurs n’expliquent pas pourquoi, et nous ne comprenons pas pourquoi, un choix est offert entre l’année 447 et l’année 462. D’ailleurs, le 8 Meheir correspondant à un 2 ou à un 3 février, c’est 448 ou 463, qu’il aurait fallu proposer.’ In BL v, p. 3, Rémondon’s remarks were abridged to ‘Zu datieren 448 oder 463’, which is misleading, but unfortunately this dating was taken over in all publications that refer to *P. Alex.* 32. In any case, 448/463 is an impossible dating; the published photograph (pl. xix) indicates that the script belongs to the sixth century.


Sijpesteijn further suggested restoring [Ἐρμοῦπο] λατίτων in l. 2 on the grounds of space, but a formulaic detail points away from a Hermopolite provenance. Leases of this date whose main body starts with μεμίθωμαι followed by a construction of πρός with χρόνον come from the village of Aphrodite; cf. *P. Flor.* 111 279 (514), 282 (520), SB xiv 11855 (650), *P. Cair. Masp.* 1 67109 (563), 67110 (565). The πόλει closest to Aphrodite was Antaeopolis, so that we may consider reading [Ἀνταιωστο] λατίτων, which has about the right length. Another nearby πόλει was Apollinopolis Minor (Heptacomas), but [Ἀπολλωνοστο] λατίτων is too long for the space. Thus the possibility exists that both *P. Alex.* 32 and the papyrus edited here refer to the same Victor, bishop of Antaeopolis or – though less likely – Apollinopolis Minor.


4. If we take l. 1 as a guide and assume that Φλαονίου was abbreviated, the supplement that would suit the space best is τῆς Ανταιωστολέων, while τῆς Ἀπολλωνοστολέων or Ἀπολλωνοστόχου πόλεως would fit with some difficulty. If Φλαονίου was not abbreviated, τῆς Ανταιωστολέων would be too short for the space.

Ιωάννου Ακιδύνου νοταρίου. Cf. *P Grenf.* 1 89.1 κατά μον και ειδοκάμῳ ἀδελφῷ Ιωάννη Άκιδύνου αδελφίμῳ νοταρίῳ κατά τῆς Ἀπολλωνοστολεότον; sim. *P Grenf.* 1 90.1–3. It should probably be excluded that he is the same as the notary Ioannes in *P Grenf.* 1 63; see Benaisa, *ZPE* 166 (2008), p. 180. Further, Ioannes son of Akindynos need not be recognized in Ιωάννης νός, who sent the letter *P Grenf.* 1 66 to bishop Taurinos, which is to be assigned to the sixth/seventh century.
Another notary in the service of a bishop, who incidentally officiated in the same broad area as Victor, occurs in *P. Cair. Masp.* 111 67295, page 111, ll. 18–20 (vi):

\[ \tau\omega \delta\epsilon\phi\omicron\tau\iota\upsilon\mu\omicron\upsilon\nu \tau\alpha \pi\alpha\nu\tau \theta\omicron\omicron\epsilon\omicron\tau\omicron\chi\tau\omicron\upsilon\upsilon\omicron\upsilon \kappa\alpha\iota\omega \iota\theta\omicron\omicron\upsilon\upsilon\upsilon\upsilon \kappa\epsilon\omicron\bar{\iota}\nu \alpha\gamma\iota\omicron\omicron\upsilon\upsilon\upsilon\upsilon \nu\omicron\upsilon \tau\omicron\nu\upsilon\upsilon\upsilon\upsilon \nu \pi\omicron\omicron\upsilon \kappa\upsilon\rho\omicron\sigma\omicron\nu \nu\omicron \tau\omicron\nu\upsilon\nu \upsilon \kappa\upsilon\iota\omicron\epsilon\omicron \rho\omicron \omicron \omicron.

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